

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 OMB-01 /085 W
-----058036 200405Z /62

R 181700Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6175
SECDEF WASHDC/ISA EUR
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER/ICJ4/7
CINCUSAREUR HEIDLEBERG GER/AEAGD-PO-P
USMNR SHAPE
DEPT ARMY WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS LU
SUBJECT: TELEVISION DEBATE ON STORAGE SITES IN LUXEMBOURG

1. DURING PART OF ITS JANUARY 15 TWO-HOUR LUXEMBOURG LANGUAGE
TELEVISION PROGRAM, RADIO TELEVISION LUXEMBOURG BROADCAST
A DEBATE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE LUXEMBOURG COMMUNIST PARTY,
MR. RENE
URBANY, AND A LIBERAL PARTY DEPUTY, MR. ROBERT MART, ON THE
STORAGE SITES ISSUE. RTL MODRATOR INTRODUCED THE DEBATE BY
PROVIDING BACKGROUND INFORMATON ON THE "SECRET NEGOTIATIONS NOW
UNDER WAY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF LUXEMBOURG, ARBED, AND
NATO." THROUGHOUT THE DEBATE THE PROJECT WAS CONSISTENTLY
DESCRIBED AS A NATO PROJECT AND BOTH PARTIES APPEARED TO PROCEED
FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WOULD GENERATE BETWEEN 1200-1500
JOBS. THE DEBATE RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN ALL LUXEMBOURG
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NEWSPAPERS. A RESUME FOLLOWS.
2. THE COMMUNISTY, MR. URBANY, ARGUED THAT THE CREATION OF
1200-1500 JOBS WOULD NOT JUSTIFY MAKING LUXEMBOURG A PRIME
TARGET IN TIME OF WAR, BRINGING IN AMERICAN TROOPS AND SECRET
SERVICES, AND UNDERMINING LUXEMBOURGER'S SOVEREIGNTY. HE
SAID"THE JOBS ARE TOO HIGH A PRICE TO PAY TO ENABLE A SMALL
NUMBER OF LUXEMBOURGERS TO SERVE AS COOLIES FOR THE AMERICAN

ARMY, TO TOTE THEIR CASES OF HAND GRENADES AND GREASE THE TRACKS OF THEIR TANKS".

3. MR. MART, A MEMBER OF THORN'S LIBERAL PARTY, COUNTERED THAT MILITARY STORAGE FACILITIES EXIST IN THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, THAT NATO ONLY HAS A DEFENSIVE ROLE, THAT BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS ARE ALSO CONSIDERING STORAGE FACILITIES, AND THAT ONLY CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WOULD BE STORED. MART EMPHASIZED THAT "NEITHER NUCLEAR ARMS NOR NEUTRON BOMBS ARE INVOLVED". MART SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO 1500 JOBS THAT WOULD BE CREATED, LUXEMBOURG INDUSTRY AND LABOR WOULD ALSO BE INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTING THE FACILITIES. HE ACCUSED URBANY OF "POLITICS OF FEAR" AND POINTED OUT THAT IN TIME OF WAR LUXEMBOURG, AS A MEMBER OF NATO, WOULD BE INVOLVED WHETHER THE STORAGE FACILITIES EXISTED OR NOT. "IF THE STORAGE FACILITIES WERE FOR WARSAW PACT ARMS", MART CONCLUDED, "YOU COMMUNISTS WOULD ACCEPT THEM WITH OPEN ARMS. AS FOR US, WE WILL ACCEPT THE NATO STORAGE FACILITIES IF THEY ARE PROPOSED".

4. COMMENT: RTL HAD ASKED ME TO TAE REMARKS ON THE STORAGE SITES WITHOUT, HOWEVER, INDICATING THAT THEY MIGHT BE USED ON THE SAME SHOW AS THE DEBATE. I REFUSED, BOTH BECAUSE THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT A DELICATE STAGE AND BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT IS UP TO THE GOL TO EXPLAIN THE PROJECT TO THE LUXEMBOURG PEOPLE. THE TV DEBATE HAS SPARKED CURIOSITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND FUELED THE RUMOR MILL, HOWEVER, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT RTL OR OTHER LUXEMBOURG JOURNALISTS MAY QUERY US ARMY REPRESENTATIVES OR NATO OFFICIALS ABOUT THE PROJECT. IF SUCH QUESTIONS ARISE, I RECOMMEND A NONCOMMITTAL RESPONSE TO THE EFFECT THAT EXPLORATORY TALKS ARE UNDERWAY AND THAT ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SHOULD COME FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF LUXEMBOURG. LOWENSTEIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELEVISION, STORAGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUXEMB00064
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780030-0202
Format: TEL
From: LUXEMBOURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780150/aaaabqff.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 75b3cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3756292
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TELEVISION DEBATE ON STORAGE SITES IN LUXEMBOURG
TAGS: MOPS, LU
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/75b3cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014